(c) The KVIC has operationalised Cane and Bamboo industries in the Silchar District of Assam under the Cluster Development Progamme. The KVIC is also contemplating to implement a separate action plan for the development of the Bodoland Autonomous Council Area in the State of Assam.

- Apart from the efforts made by thw KVIC, some of the policy initiatives taken to promote healthy growth of SSIs are mentioned below:—

(i) For tiny units, i.e. where the investment in plant and machinery does not exceed Rs. 25 lakhs, the exemption limit for dispensing with collateral security has been raised from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs.

(ii) The limit for composite loans (i.e. providing working capital and term loan through a single window) has been raised from Rs. 5 lakhs to ~ Rs. 10 lakhs.

Moreover, introduction of a Credit Guarantee Scheme for SSI units with credit limits up to Rs. 10 lakhs without collateral security, is under active consideration of the Government.

Minimum Export Price for Coir

5007. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted any representation against the reduction of Minimum Export Price for coir products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Minimum Export Price (MEP) on coir products was revised in 1995 by the Ministry of Textiles. However, the Coir Board on its own enhanced the MEP in 1997 in anticipation of the approval of the Ministry of Textiles. The Ministry of Textiles did not, however, give its concurrence and rejected the proposal of the Coir Board. The State Government of Kerala vide its letter dated 7th April, 1999 had requested the Ministry of Textiles to review their order.

(c) The representation of the State Government of Kerala was duly considered by the Ministry of Textiles but could not be agreed upon.